

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, CHAIRMAN



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Platts Introduces Bill to Codify Program Assessments

PAR Act Will Improve Management, Make Government More Results-Oriented

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Todd R. Platts (R-PA-19), Chairman of the Government Reform Efficiency and Financial Management Subcommittee, introduced important legislation today to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal government – the Program Assessment and Results Act, or PAR Act. The introduced bill mirrors H.R. 3826 from the 108th Congress, which was reported out by the Government Reform Committee but not considered by the House of Representatives.

Building on reforms established in the Government Performance and Results Act, the PAR Act requires the Office of Management and Budget, working with agencies, to assess the performance of all Federal programs at least once every five years.

“Unless we take an empirical, systematic look at programs, the results they produce, and the way they are managed, we will never know whether we are meeting goals or providing services to the public in the most effective way possible. Congress and the Executive Branch need to work together to ensure that information gleaned from program reviews empowers us to make timely, well-informed decisions,” said Chairman Platts.

During the 108th Congress, Rep. Platts’s Subcommittee held four hearings on the topic of management reform, including how best to codify a requirement for program assessment. In formulating the legislation, the Subcommittee took into account the testimony of experts in the field of performance budgeting, Administration officials, and the authors of two Government Accountability Office reports on the implementation of GPRA and the Program Assessment Rating Tool or PART.

As one of the six elements in a strategic plan, GPRA directs Federal agencies to include “a description of the program evaluations used in establishing or revising general goals and objectives.” A 2004 GAO report cited program evaluation as the one area where agencies government-wide consistently did not meet expectations. The PAR Act seeks to strengthen this and other aspects of GPRA.

“This process – evaluating effectiveness program-by-program – is necessary to ensure the best use of tax dollars,” said Chairman Platts. “By codifying the requirement to review all federal programs, we take an important step toward producing a more results-oriented government.”

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